cluding mesta) during the past five years were as given below:

Year	Acreage (000 HEC)	production (000 bales of 180 Kgs.)	productivity (in Kgs.)
1992-93	836.0	7700	1658
1993-94	736.1	7000	1712
1994-95	831.6	8200	1775
1995-96	886.2	8100	1645
1996-97	1039.8	10200	1766

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, substantial carry over stock coupled with a big jute crop resulted to the raw jute prices falling below the MSP level. The funds have already been given to JCI to undertake MSP operation. The requisite steps taken by the Govt. to take care of the phenomenon are as under:—

(a) JCI have been directed to start MSP operations.

(b) Rs. 10.00 crores have been released by the Ministry of Textiles to JCI to start up MSP Operations.

(c) Reserve Bank of India have also authorised JCI on enhanced credit limit of Rs. 10.00 crores valid upto July, 1997.

(d) Govt. of India have also sanctioned a Bank Guarantee for Rs. 33.00 crores for MSP operations by JCI.

(e) Further budgetary support will be given to JCI to enhance the activities on MSP operations.

(f) The Hon'ble Minister of Textiles had already written to the Hon'ble Minister of Food and the Hon'ble Minister of Fertilisers and Chemicals to instruct the FCI and other Fertiliser Companies respectively to place the orders for jute bags. We hope that the demand for jute bags will certainly go up as the bulk purchasers have started placing the orders.

(d) Jute Cultivation is being promoted through adoption of improved package of practices, extension support to growers provision of seeds/implements at subsidised rates etc. under Special Jute Development Programme. Vigorous thrust is being provided for Jute Industry by promotion of traditional products through Mandatory Jute Packaging Order, encouragement for product of lighter materials etc.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Import of Textiles by Rich Nations

914. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of curbs that are affecting import of textiles by rich nations; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) There are quantitative restrictions (quotas) on exports of certain textile and clothing items from India, applied by the U.S.A., the European Community Countries, Canada and Norway. However, the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) included in the Final Act on the Uruguay Round, envisages complete integration of the textile sector into the multilateral framework of GATT/WTO by 1-1-2005, in stages.

Close down of BIC Textiles Mills, Kanpur

915. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close down BIC textile mills, Kanpur;